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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07170 100012Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 /081 W
----------012794 102350Z /63
R 091435Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8858
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7170

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:HWGOV, PDEV, NI
SUBJECT: TOWARD A NORTHERN POLITICAL PARTY

REF: (A) KADUNA 673, (B) LAGOS 6975

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MCAS AND POLITICAL JOURNALISTS THIS WEEK, WE PICKED UP A BIT MORE INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF NORTHERN POLITICAL LEADEHLYNLD IN LAGOS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3. ASIDE FROM THE COMMITTEES DISCUSSED IN REF A AND THE SHARIA PLANNING, IT WAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO MAKEGQNHHYBME EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE NORTHERN POLITICAL POWER BEHIND A SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY. ACCORDINGLY, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE TEN NORTHERN STATES WERE TO GO HOME, CANVASS OPINION WITHIN THE NORTHERN ESTABLISHMENT, AND COME UP WITH A LIST OF FOUR NAMES IN DESCENDING ORDER OF PREFERENCE FOR THE NORTHERN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. AT THE SECOND MEETING SCHEDULED FOR KADUNA ON JUNE 24 (REF A), THE LISTS WILL BE PUT TOGETHER AND AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO UNITE BEHIND THE CHOSEN LEADER.

2. ON THE COMMITTEES WHICH WERE SET UP, RUFAI IBRAHIM
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OF THE DAILY TIMES TOLD US THAT VETERAN MIDDLE BELT POLITICIAN JOSEPH TARKA, WHO STILL HAS PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS, HAS THROWN HIS LOT IN WITH THE NORTH AND WAS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF A COMMITTEE. THAT SHOULD COMPLETE THE DIVORCE BETWEEN TARKA AND THE YOUNG MIDDLE BELT LEADERS IN THE CA, SUCH AS PAUL UNONGO AND COMPANY. IT WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT CHIEF AWOLOWO,

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WHOSE ACTION GROUP WAS OFTEN ALLIED WITH TARKA'S UNITED
MIDDLE BELT CONGRESS, WILL HAVE DIFFICULT IMTE
BREAKING INTO THE MIDDLE BELT STATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS07170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-0956
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780677/aaaacoej.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KADUNA 673, 78 LAGOS 6975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2419294
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOWARD A NORTHERN POLITICAL PARTY
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, PINT, NI, (TARKA, JOSEPH), (UNONGO, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6de1428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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